

February 19, 2021

Good afternoon

The Health Unit has become aware of what appears to be a new Fentanyl powder in both Brockville and Smiths Falls. This new Fentanyl is a yellow powder. The Health Unit has received several overdose reports within the past week related to this new substance. Anecdotal reports are that this substance is highly toxic causing individuals to overdose with very small amounts. The Health Unit has also become aware that one overdose required multiple doses of Naloxone which may be indicative of the substance containing other drugs such as a benzodiazepine (i.e. Xanax or Ativan etc).

The Health Unit is reminding community partners that LGL continues to grapple with a toxic supply of substances, COVID related stresses and a change in the availability of health and social services. The stress, uncertainty and anxiety associated with the COVID-19 pandemic may lead to increased substance use amongst vulnerable populations.

Harm reduction supplies (single use equipment, naloxone), and further access to services and referrals will continue to be offered throughout Leeds, Grenville and Lanark during the COVID – 19 pandemic. Please visit the Health Unit website for more information. www.healthunit.org

The risk of an overdose can be reduced by following safer use practices;

- Carry a naloxone kit
- Importance of calling 911 in the event of an overdose
- Avoid mixing substances
- Use a small test dose first
- Do not use alone

People who use substance are encouraged to not use alone, and take the necessary precautions to prevent the spread of COVID-19 within the community including;

- Frequent hand washing for at least 20 seconds
- Limit the number of people who you use with
- Maintain physical distancing of 2 meters
- Clean and disinfect all surfaces where substances are being prepared
- Avoid sharing and/or reusing of equipment

An overdose is a medical emergency. Anyone who suspects or witnesses an overdose should call 9-1-1. **The Good Samaritan Drug Overdose Act provides some legal protection against simple drug possession charges for anyone who experiences, witnesses or responds to an overdose and calls 9-1-1.**

If you have any questions or concerns please don't hesitate to contact me.



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